

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you NOT to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will INCREASE video and broadband COSTS for consumers like me and tend to harm or drive entertainment providers out of business through the absence, or near absence, of free market competition.

The combined company will be a strong monopoly or near monopoly with only the near-monopoly of cable operators to offering miniscule competition.

Supporters claim the merger will ensure that high-speed Internet access service via satellite is available to Americans nationwide, but there is no assurance of the cost efficiency derived from competition.

I urge you to refuse any form of support for the proposed merger. Denying this proposed monopoly will help provide quality service at reasonable prices.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

David Bretz
7175 Pride - Port Hudson Road
Zachary, LA 70791